

# **BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday 6 March 2018

**Time:** 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 1, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford

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## **AGENDA**

**Introduced by**

**1. Questions**

*To consider any questions from members of the public and Members of the Council.*

Chair

**2. Apologies for absence**

*To receive any apologies for absence.*

Chair

**3. Minutes**

*To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2018 (copy enclosed).*

Chair

**4. Disclosure of Local and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

*Members are reminded that where they have a local and/or disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the Council to be considered at this meeting they must disclose the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.*

Chair

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## OVERVIEW

5. **Update regarding Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital merger** Bedford and Luton & Dunstable Hospitals  
*To consider the following documents (copies enclosed);*
- i) Stakeholder update on the proposal to merge Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital;*
  - ii) Public Summary of the full business case for the proposed merger of Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital; and*
  - iii) Full Business Case – Executive Summary.*
6. **Urgent Treatment Centre and GP Extended Access Service** BCCG  
*To provide assurance that a robust communications engagement plan is underway to involve local communities in the establishment of a new nationally mandated Urgent Treatment Centre and the co-design of new models of care for the new GP Extended Access (copy enclosed).*
7. **Adult Services Charging Policy for Care and Support** DAS  
*To consider the Adult Services Charging Policies for Care and Support report which was previously considered by the Executive on 24 January 2018 (copy enclosed).*
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## SCRUTINY

8. **Executive** DSO  
*(a) “Call-ins” – To consider any “call-ins”.*
- (b) Record of Decisions of the Executive from its meeting held on 13 February 2018 – To note that no decisions falling within the remit of the Committee have been made since the Committee’s last meeting.*
9. **Post Decision Scrutiny - Individual Executive Decisions** DSO  
*To note that no decisions falling within the remit of the Committee have been made since the Committee’s last meeting.*

**10. Notice of Forthcoming Decisions to be taken by the Executive**

DSO

*To consider a summary of items included in the Notice of Forthcoming Decisions to be taken by the Executive for the four month period from April to July 2018 (copy to follow).*

**11. Committee Work Programme 2017/2018**

DSO

*To consider suggestions for the Work Programme for 2017/2018 (copy enclosed).*

P J SIMPKINS  
Chief Executive

To: Each Member of the **ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
(Councillors Bootiman, Corp, Masud, Mingay, Rider, Towler and Uko)

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Date of Issue: 26 February 2018

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6 March 2018

**AT A MEETING**

of the

**ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

held at 6.30pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mingay (Chair)  
Councillors Bootiman, Corp, Masud, Rider, Towler and Uko

In attendance:

Emma Freda, Healthwatch Bedford Borough (Observer)

Also Present:

Councillor Carofano

**63. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public or Members of the Council.

**64. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 be confirmed.

**65. DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL AND/OR DISCLOSEABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests.

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**66. UPDATE REGARDING BEDFORD HOSPITAL AND LUTON AND DUNSTABLE HOSPITAL MERGER**

The Chair welcomed David Carter, Chief Executive, Luton and Dunstable Hospital and Stephen Conroy, Chief Executive, Bedford Hospital who provided an update regarding the proposed Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital merger.

The Chief Executive, Luton and Dunstable Hospital advised that a decision had been taken to postpone the merger date of 1 April 2018 as the financial arrangements had not been finalised with NHS Improvement (NHSI). The financial arrangements needed to ensure that they included the following:

- a) How transactional costs would be covered (i.e. I.T., legal and accounting systems);
- b) The way in which the accumulated debt of Bedford Hospital would be managed (i.e. long term loans);
- c) How surplus or deficits would be targeted at both hospitals moving forward; and
- d) The amount of capital funds required at both hospital sites.

It was reported that applications for capital funds in both Tranches 1 and 2 had been unsuccessful, and that a new tranche in the summer would be available to those Trusts who had previously applied and been unsuccessful. The Chief Executive, Luton and Dunstable Hospital advised that once the capital funds had been secured, other financial arrangements would fall in line. He also confirmed that there had been significant support for the merger of the two hospitals, and that they were waiting for a date for the capital bid decision in order to determine whether a mid-year merger was possible or not.

The Chief Executive, Bedford Hospital advised that a number of issues would need to be considered in the new financial year to ensure that control totals were reached. Measures were already in place for each hospital to work independently and jointly together across both organisations.

In response to Members' questions and comments, the Chief Executives for Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital provided the following responses:

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- If capital funds were not received, then Luton and Dunstable Hospital faced a significant hurdle as its capital stock was in urgent need of refurbishment, and there was a need to create a stable foundation. The Hospital Boards were concerned that the merger bid was not as strong without the capital funding. A number of different scenarios had been considered regarding this matter, however both hospitals remained confident that the required capital funds would be secured in order to underpin the merger moving forward and were confident in the bid;
- There were benefits of bringing the two health organisations together in terms of stabilising acute services, however it could also create uncertainty. There was a need to ensure that robust financial arrangements had been secured and were in place prior to any benefits being realised;
- Some of the hospitals' buildings were in serious need of repair therefore there was a need to work hard and align such matters as part of the merger which needed to be addressed if a joint, stable organisation was to be created. Nationally, deficits in the system had led to capital funding being used to fill the gap. ;
- The third tranche of capital funding was larger than the previous two. It was unknown how many other trusts would be applying to the tranche which would be reviewed in March 2018;
- The costs for an Integrated Director related to the merger – it was an internal post which had already been appointed to and would seek to work across both hospital sites;
- Both organisations were aware of the risks associated to securing funding - conversations at a high level had been held whereby such assumptions had been understood and were believed to be common in transactions and mergers;
- The financial arrangements (as outlined in A-D above) had been discussed from the very beginning and had been included in the full business case of the proposed merger;
- There were capital requirements at both sites, for example the maternity theatre at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital was in need of repair and was considered not to be fit for purpose, therefore when capital funding had been secured it would seek to replace/repair some of its older parts of the estate;;

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- NHSI were responsible for the merger process and the STP and the Department of Health were responsible for the capital element of the merger. The timing of these matters were out of sync, hence the proposed merger had been delayed;
- Staff were very enthusiastic and supportive of the merger. Some were concerned about the delay whilst others thought that it gave more time for planning and overall the morale was high;
- The current Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt had visited Bedford Hospital and was supportive of the proposed merger, as was the local Member of Parliament and Borough Councillor, Councillor Yasin MP;
- The principal of the merger had not changed and frustrations regarding the delay had been acknowledged;
- The delay in the merger was considered to be short term, and it was hoped that the merger would create a long term viable organisation in the future;
- To date the merger had cost approximately £850,000 of which £750,000 had been provided by the STP; and
- The proposed merger was an extremely ambitious target which was fully supported by the hospitals' staff. Morale was high and it had brought people together to work towards a collective, good idea.

The following concerns expressed by Members regarding the merger were noted:

- that the merger may be in jeopardy of not taking place if financial arrangements were not secured;
- the use of the word "*assumptions*" was worrying;
- staff could not continue to work in the current conditions;
- state funded healthcare could only be maintained by local people and it should be sufficiently funded;
- the implications of the proposed merger failing and not going ahead; and
- that whilst the concerns regarding the delays were acknowledged, Members remained fully committed to the work and dedication undertaken by both hospitals.

The Committee concurred that they would like to be kept informed of any developments regarding the merger and to be able to provide certainty to hospital staff and the public as soon as possible regarding this matter.

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RESOLVED:

- i) That the update regarding Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital merger, be noted.
- ii) That the Chief Executives of both Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital be thanked for their attendance and ongoing hard work.
- iii) That the Committee receive a report at a future date on the outcome of the capital bid and future merger plans.

**67. URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE AND GP EXTENDED ACCESS SERVICE**

The Chair welcomed Sarah Thompson, Accountable Office, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) Michelle Summers, Head of Communications and Engagement, BCCG and Dr Ratan Das, Bedford Locality Vice-Chair who presented a report which sought to provide assurance to the Committee that a robust communications and engagement plan was underway, to involve local communities in the establishment of a new nationally mandated Urgent Treatment Centre, and the co-design of new models of care for the new GP Extended Access.

The Head of Communications and Engagement advised that BCCG had listened to the concerns of the public particularly regarding the closure of the Walk-in Centre at Putnoe, as well as the development of the new Urgent Treatment Centre and GP Extended Access. She advised that BCCG would be considering how it engaged with local residents by getting out into the community to gather a diverse range of views, and to meet with GPs in order to help shape and co-produce health services moving forward. The Communications and Engagement Plan would also seek to include working with vulnerable people and hard to reach groups.

It was noted that BCCG would be meeting later this week to consider GP Extended Access including possible locations, services and timings - a three month period of engagement regarding this matter would then commence in March 2018.

In response to a question, the Head of Communications and Engagement advised that BCCG had not considered attending this year's River Festival event as part of its' engagement plan, however acknowledged that such an event would be a good example of engaging with pre-existing communities and groups.

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A member also suggested that BCCG engaged with all elected Members, including Town and Parish Councillors as they were considered to be important stakeholders. Members were keen to learn more information from BCCG about how local GP Extended Access and Urgent Treatment Centre services would be provided in the future so that they could advise their constituents, perhaps through the use of a newsletter.

Emma Freda commented that markets were pre-dominantly frequented by the elderly, therefore suggested using supermarkets (e.g. Lidl in Kempston and Sainsburys at Clapham), and the bus station in order to gain a more diverse range of views regarding BCCG's engagement events. She also suggested contacting local food banks. It was also recommended that the new facilities should include hearing loops and paging systems for those with hearing disabilities. It was also noted that people's views about travel to the new services would be sought.

Members noted that qualitative data would be collated through surveys, a social media campaign for young people, mental health groups, faith groups and older people's community services.

In response to Members' questions and comments, the Head of Communications and Engagement, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and Bedford Locality Vice-Chair provided the following responses:

- A rigorous communication plan would be in place and kept up to date regarding the views of what the public wanted out of its local health services. The process of the engagement plan had been designed to incorporate the views of the general public. There was also a need to provide evidence regarding what the public wanted and to blend such information into available options;
- The Putnoe Medical Centre would remain open six days a week and would continue to provide services to those residents who were registered at the centre. The nationally mandated Urgent Treatment Centre would be provided at the Cauldwell Medical Centre, based at the Bedford Hospital site, which was therefore closer to A&E services in terms of greater clinical safety, and would also be able to provide simple investigations within the proximity of A&E if assistance was required;
- In autumn 2017, BCCG embarked on a process to build resilience in primary care in Bedford and sought to engage with local communities by means of a survey to gauge whether patients would like to access GP Extended Access services. The information collated by this survey and from future engagement events needed to be analysed in order to meet the needs of the public in terms of extended access requirements;

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- Locations were being considered both north and south of the river. ;
- The NHS required BCCG, through a nationally mandated policy, to engage with the public in order to try and provide the health services they wanted. It was acknowledged that additional communication and/or explicit advertisements regarding this work would have been more helpful to the public; and
- BCCG had a national specification to work towards therefore it was not considered best practice to have a formal public consultation, however the end result would be enhanced health services for the residents of Bedford.

A suggestion for BCCG to put some information together for a roadshow and for the Borough Council to advise them of any relevant events for them to attend and present such information in the coming months was noted. The Head of Communications and Engagement acknowledged that attendance at such events would be extremely helpful in terms of networking and engaging with different groups within the Borough.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the update and report regarding the Urgent Treatment Centre and GP Extended Access Service, be noted.
- ii) That the Committee recommend to BCCG that the following groups and places are added to the Engagement plan including, Bedford Food Bank, the bus station, local supermarkets and the River Festival.
- iii) That the Committee recommend to BCCG that BCCG contact councillors for further details of local events that BCCG could attend in order to promote and engage with a diverse range of groups within the Borough regarding the shaping of future GP Extended Access services within the Borough.
- iv) That the Head of Communications and Engagement BCCG and Bedford Locality Vice-Chair be thanked for their attendance.

**68. ADULT SERVICES CHARGING POLICY FOR CARE AND SUPPORT**

The Director of Adults Services introduced her report which advised Members of the annual revision to the Charging Policy for Adult Services within Bedford Borough Council, and confirmed that materialistically there was little change to the report. Fundamental changes had been introduced as a result of the Care Act 2014 which effectively unified pre-existing residential and non-residential charging policies into one single policy.

The Chair welcomed the detailed report and commented that whilst adult services were extremely costly to the Council, they were also very much needed services for the residents of the Borough.

In response to a question, the Director of Adults Services confirmed that the Council had not received any complaints or appeals regarding its adult services charging policy for care and support within the last twelve months.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the Adult Services Charging Policy for Care and Support report as previously considered by the Executive at their meeting held on 24 January 2018, be noted.
- ii) That the Director of Adults Services and her team be congratulated and thanked for providing a thorough and coherent report.

**69. EXECUTIVE**

- (a) Call-ins

The Committee noted that there were no "call-ins" to consider.

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(b) Extract from Records of Decisions of the Executive – 13 February 2018

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that no decisions of the Executive falling within the remit of the Committee had been made since the Committee's last meeting.

**70. POST DECISION SCRUTINY - INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that no individual Executive Decisions falling within the remit of the Committee had been made since the Committee's last meeting.

**71. NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee received a summary of items included in the Notice of Forthcoming Decisions for the period April to July 2018 which came within its purview. It was noted that the item listed in the report, which fell within the remit of the Committee was already included on the Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the briefing note and extract of the latest Notice of Forthcoming Decisions to be taken by the Executive, be noted.

**72. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/2018**

The Committee considered a briefing note relating to their Work Programme for 2017/2018 and agreed that the following items should be scheduled as follows:

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- 17 April 2018
  - Children's and Young Persons Mental Health (including an invitation to Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to attend the meeting); including a letter from the CQC regarding its Thematic Review of Mental Health Services for Children and Young People conducted in late 2017;
  - Bedford Prison; and
  - Work Programme for 2018/19.

Members wished to defer a further update regarding the Urgent Treatment Centre and GP Extended Access Services until the new Municipal Year (May 2018). The Service Manager (Health and Policy Support) confirmed that if any other information relating to these matters was received in the meantime, then it would be circulated accordingly with the Members of this Committee.

Members were advised that Quality Accounts would start to be available soon. The Service Manager (Health and Policy Support) advised that whilst the Committee was under no obligation to consider them, the Quality Accounts for Bedford Hospital may be of particular interest to them. Members requested that the Quality Accounts for Bedford Hospital be considered at the meeting in May 2018.

The Service Manager (Health and Policy Support) advised that a letter from EPUT regarding their Quality Reports/Accounts had been received, and confirmed that as from April 2018 they would no longer operate locally.

- New Municipal Year 2018/19 Agenda Items – 22 May 2018
  - Urgent Treatment Centre and GP Extended Access Services; and
  - Quality Accounts for Bedford Hospital.

RESOLVED:

- i) That, subject to the above, the Work Programme for 2017/2018, be agreed.
- ii) That the following items be added to the Work Programme for 2018/19:

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- Urgent Treatment Centre and GP Extended Access Services until the new Municipal Year; and
- Quality Accounts for Bedford Hospital.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

